

In a previous presentation [1], we discussed some of the issues involved in the design and implementation of Web-based access to radiological data, with emphasis on implementation and security. Here we discuss some practical aspects of the use of such interfaces, particularly those issues which physician feedback has shown to be important to wider acceptance.

Two main uses of this system have been found to be practical in our institution. One is for off-campus on-call use, the other is for the generation of teaching file material. In the first case, while push technology may be preferable, if large datasets are to be transferred to the physicians home or off-campus location, then availability of DICOM push makes it quicker to provide for pull technology such as http. Thus the bandwidth bottleneck is contained within the (high bandwidth) institution rather than imposing it on the (low bandwidth) connection to the off-campus location.

In the second case, a familiar interface to more arcane devices (e.g digitizers) motivates the WWW-DICOM interface for the creation of teaching files. Since it is straightforward to Save a Web page or image, window width and center controls, together with zooming and grayscale inversion perhaps, can be applied until a satisfactory image is presented. This image may be saved at a much reduced capacity compared to the original. Thus, multi-image teaching files may be built without immediate storage problems.

[1] McColl R, Lane T. The DICOM-WWW gateway: implementation, configuration, security and privacy. *Medical Physics* 25(7):A216, 1998.